

DEC 7 1950

NASHUA (N.H.)
TELEGRAPH

Circ.: e. 10,447

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SUPER STAFF

President Eisenhower has begun to build a super-staff of free-wheeling military brains in Washington. He has called from retirement Gen. Walter Bedell Smith to be a special assistant on foreign policy. And he has appointed Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther president of the American Red Cross, with headquarters in Washington, upon his return from Europe where he has been Supreme Allied Commander.

Bedell Smith was chief of staff to Gen. Eisenhower as Supreme Allied Commander in World War Two. Gruenther was chief of staff to Gen. Eisenhower as Allied Supreme Commander of NATO. Thus the two men who were closest to him in his greatest military commands are again to be closely associated with the President as Commander-in-Chief. Of all of our military leaders, these three form an intimate council of those who perhaps know Europe and the military capabilities of the Soviet best.

We can draw a sense of security in seeing this unofficial new council of war in the making, but we hope that it will always be used to prevent the major war that is brewing about us. If anyone knows what will stop the Russians in their headlong rush into the Middle East and elsewhere where power vacuums develop, Eisenhower, Smith and Gruenther should. We hope their countermoves will not wait long. For, as King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, long time friend of America whose country is now under the shadow of Soviet arms, said, "If the United States does not help us soon, God only knows what will happen."

The Middle East can still be regained if we are strong enough to act and act without the use of arms.